

Jokowi roots for private investment

as Freeport row lingers

Rieka Rahadiana, Thomas Kutty Abraham and Rosalind Mathieson

BLOOMBERG/JAKARTA/SINGAPORE

Indonesia will turn to private investors for the hundreds of billions of dollars in investment needed to develop the archipelago's infrastructure and natural resources, President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo said, brushing off claims he was increasingly becoming an economic nationalist.

All major projects will be offered to the private sector, Jokowi told Bloomberg Television's Haslinda Amin on Saturday in an interview on a hilltop overlooking the picturesque Lake Toba.

Government companies would

partner with private investors only if there was not enough interest among such players, with funding from the national budget the last resort, he said.

Halfway through his term in office, Jokowi is seeking to balance the need for more foreign investment with pressures at home to keep the economy, especially its mineral resources, in local hands.

A dispute between the government and Freeport-McMoRan Inc. over the transfer of majority ownership of the United States miner's Indonesian unit demonstrates that challenge, while also stoking concern that investors may turn their back on the country.

"Is Indonesia a protectionist? No. We are open for investors," Jokowi said in the interview.

"We have cut the negative list to allow more foreign investors. It shows that Indonesia is open."

Jokowi has attempted to wean the country off commodities and push investment in value-added manufacturing and services to emulate the success of countries like South Korea.

He wants mining companies to build smelters rather than export raw commodities, and divest majority stakes in their businesses.

While that nationalist strategy may help his prospects of being re-elected, it's also undermining efforts to generate more jobs and boost growth.

Newmont Mining Corp. and BHP Billiton Ltd. pulled out of Indonesia in 2016, and DP World Ltd., the Dubai-owned company that operates ports from China to South America, said last month it would not renew a concession to jointly operate a terminal in the Southeast Asian nation beyond 2019 as conditions set by the government were not favorable.

With a legal cap on the fiscal deficit of 3 percent of the gross domestic product, and revenues under pressure, Jokowi needs foreign investment to finance his ambitious infrastructure plan.

The World Bank estimates Indonesia will need US\$500 billion over the next five years to build roads, ports and bridges.

While 5 percent economic growth is "good," the government will continue to pursue the 7 percent goal, Jokowi said.

Faster growth was the best way to generate more jobs and increase per-capita income of the country's 260 million people, he said.

Jokowi, who completes three years in office this week, rode to power on a wave of political nationalism, pledging to renegotiate contracts with foreign companies.

He recently ordered stricter enforcement of a policy requiring manufacturers use more local components, saying the rule was needed to reduce dependence on imports and encourage invest-

ment in factories.

At the same time, he's implemented some business reforms to lure investors. He's pledged a one-stop shop for approvals to speed up projects and allowed full foreign ownership of businesses, such as those operating toll roads, cold storage and cinemas.

That's helped Indonesia steadily improve its ranking on the World Bank's ease of doing business index — jumping 18 places to 91 this year.

But regulations around land acquisition and permit processes continue to hold back investors, with only about a third of domestic and foreign investment pledges actually realized, according to government estimates.

Low inflation laying ground

for rate reductions

**Thomas Kutty Abraham,
Rieka Rahadiana and
Rosalind Mathieson**

BLOOMBERG/JAKARTA/SINGAPORE

Indonesia's success in taming consumer prices provides room for lower interest rates, President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo said, while making it clear that it was the job of the central bank to determine whether to cut.

Inflation will average less than 4 percent this year, down from more than 8 percent in 2014 when he took office, Jokowi said in an interview at Huta Ginjang, overlooking the picturesque Lake Toba, where he had been to open a newly upgraded airport nearby.

"It means that if inflation is low, lending rates can still fall," he said. "But again, it's not my territory. That's the territory of Bank Indonesia."

Eight rate reductions since the beginning of last year, including back-to-back surprise cuts this year, have failed to fire up Southeast Asia's largest economy.

The growth rate is still stuck at about 5 percent, well below the 7 percent goal Jokowi set when he came into office three years ago.

The central bank, which will announce its next rate decision on Thursday, is now carefully trying to balance the need for more stimulus with risks that the currency may weaken as the United States

Federal Reserve tightens monetary policy.

The president's comments reflects the dilemma Governor Agus Martowardojo and his board faces as they try to press the pause button.

"As a former businessman, I will be happy if lending rates fall," said Jokowi, a former furniture exporter.

"All businessmen are happy if lending rates fall, fall and fall. Because costs will be lower, and their products will compete better with products of other countries."

Martowardojo said last week that future rate moves will depend on what the data tells policy makers about the outlook for the econ-

omy.

Inflation has been relatively subdued this year, reaching 3.7 percent in September and remaining within the bank's 3 to 5 percent target.

It's expected to remain tame in the years ahead, with Bank Indonesia set to narrow the target to 2 percent to 4 percent from 2020, according to Deputy Governor Perry Warjiyo.

All 23 economists surveyed by Bloomberg predict the bank will keep its benchmark rate unchanged at 4.25 percent on Thursday.

Speaking after an interview with Bloomberg Television's Haslinda Amin, Jokowi said while

5 percent economic growth is "good," the government will continue to pursue the 7 percent goal.

Faster growth was the best way to generate more jobs and increase per-capita income of the country's 260 million people, he said.

Jokowi said a slump in the rupiah and record quarterly outflow of foreign funds from stocks were due to reasons beyond his government's control and he was committed to making Indonesia an attractive destination for investors.

The record-breaking rally in the benchmark Jakarta Composite Index was a testimony to investors' confidence in the country's prospects, he said.

"It's usual for portfolio invest-

ments to come and leave. The most important thing is that the composite index is increasing," Jokowi said.

"Investors still see Indonesia as an investment destination — one of the best destinations."

The rupiah dropped to a 10-month low early this month and was at 13,507 against the dollar on Tuesday, while the yield on benchmark 10-year government bonds rose five basis points to 6.6 percent.

Foreign investors sold a net US\$2.1 billion of stocks in the third quarter, while they are net sellers of \$914 million of government bonds this month, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

US accounts of 1965

may not be accurate: RI

**Marguerite Afra Sapiie,
Indra Budiari and
Nurul Fitri Ramadhani**

THE JAKARTA POST / JAKARTA

The Indonesian government is taking with a grain of salt archival United States government accounts of what happened during the last days of former president Sukarno when the Indonesian Army launched a campaign to purge thousands of members of the now-defunct Indonesian Communist Party (PKI).

A trove of US government files containing diplomatic dispatches from its embassy in Jakarta on the 1965-1966 mass killings of the PKI's cadres and alleged sympathizers were released on Tuesday, providing some new details on what transpired at the time.

Jakarta, however, has downplayed the accounts, saying the

US government files reveal new details on 1965-1966 mass killings

Files cite roles of Nahdlatul Ulama, Muhammadiyah in organizing executions

documents reflected the "US point of view of the incident" that needed to be fact-checked first.

"The files contain communications that involved the US Embassy in Indonesia at that time, but we need to check the accuracy of the documents," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Armanatha Nasir told reporters on Wednesday.

Some 30,000 pages of files from the US Embassy in Jakarta reveal US diplomats' detailed and ongoing knowledge of the political

upheaval that swept through Indonesia at the height of the Cold War in 1965.

In a telegram dated Oct. 12, 1965 sent by then US ambassador to Indonesia Marshall Green to the US secretary of state, Green reported a conversation with the German ambassador to Indonesia, who revealed the possibility of the Army deposing Sukarno.

The Army's representative was said to have approached the German ambassador after Sukarno refused to read papers providing evidence of "PKI complicity in the Sept. 30 movement" presented by the Army, referring to the failed coup attempt that took the lives of six Army officers.

The representative, however, emphasized that the Army had yet to come to a decision about deposing Sukarno. "If it was done, it would be through a sudden move

without warning and Sukarno would then be replaced by a combined civilian-military junta," the telegram said, quoting the statement of the Army's representative.

In a memorandum of a conversation dated Oct. 23, 1965, Adnan Buyung Nasution, an assistant to Indonesia's attorney general, told the US Embassy's second secretary that the Army had already executed many communists, but the information must be closely held because the Army needed more time to break the PKI.

A Dec. 21, 1965 cable from the embassy's first secretary Mary Vance Trent to the US State Department noted that at least 100,000 people had been killed in anti-PKI violence, with some 10,000 killings occurring in Bali by mid-December. The killings continued for several more months, resulting in an estimated 80,000 dead.

Nasution said that it was critical for Sukarno not to learn about the extent of Army repression, especially from foreign media. The second secretary, Robert G. Rich, said the US government was "making every effort to avoid stimulating press speculation."

When asked about the documents, current Indonesian Military (TNI) commander Gen. Gatot Nurmantyo said he had not yet read the US files and thus he could not comment on the matter.

The files also cite the pivotal role of Muhammadiyah, Nahdlatul Ulama and its youth wing Ansor, which remain the country's biggest mainstream groups, in organizing executions in many parts of the country under the direction of the Army.

A Dec. 6, 1965 cable from the US Consulate in Medan to the US Embassy in Jakarta reported that

preachers in Muhammadiyah mosques were telling congregations that all who had consciously joined the PKI must be killed, saying that they "are classified as the lowest order of infidel, the shedding of whose blood is comparable to killing chicken."

Muhammadiyah secretary-general Abdul Mu'ti said the US files should be further verified to ensure their reliability. He added that even if it was true that Muhammadiyah preachers called for the killing of PKI members, "personal statements could not be considered as the stance of the organization."

Meanwhile, historian Asvi Warman Adam from the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI), said the declassification of the US files could push the Indonesian government to pay more attention to the 1965 massacre, which remains a sensitive topic until now:

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Qatar open for talks on blockade

Fedina S. Sundaryani
THE JAKARTA POST/BOGOR

Qatar has revealed it is open to negotiations to resolve a dispute that has alienated the Gulf state from neighboring Arab countries.

The Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, made the remark during his first state visit to Indonesia. He said he discussed the ongoing issue with President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo during their two-hour meeting at the Bogor Presidential Palace in West Java on Wednesday.

"We conveyed that Qatar is more than ready to enter into dialogue in resolving the problem with all stakeholders and we especially respect the sovereignty of all countries," the emir said through an Arabic interpreter during a joint press briefing. "We already know that no one will win [...] We are all brothers and we all suffer because of this crisis."

Qatar has found itself in the middle of a diplomatic spat with several neighboring states, notably Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, which have accused it of financing terrorism in Syria and maintaining friendly ties with their foe, Iran. The two countries — in addition to Egypt and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — cut ties with Qatar in early June. Doha denies that it sponsors extremists.

In the latest twist in the regional dispute, Saudi Arabia and its allies have made a list of 13 wide-ranging demands of Qatar, including for it to shut down its Al Jazeera television network and curb ties with Iran.

President Jokowi did not publicly address the issue, but Foreign Minister Retno LP Marsudi acknowledged that the dispute was raised by the two leaders in their talks. While Indonesia's top diplomat declined to disclose any specifics, she reiterated the country's consistent call for a peaceful resolution of the conflict to prevent further escalation.

"Conflict or war would not benefit anyone. The President also always emphasizes the importance

Qatar makes no pledge to invest in Indonesia, despite expectations

Emir raises problem of regional blockade imposed by Saudi Arabia

of upholding unity in the *um-mah*," Retno said, referring to the global community of Muslims.

This is not the first time Indonesia has called on all feuding parties to practice self-restraint to avoid increasing tensions. Retno said she had been in contact with her UAE and Saudi counterparts to find a workable solution and had also discussed the dispute with Kuwait, which along with top United States officials has been trying to mediate between all parties.

Qatar's geopolitical tussle was not the only issue it brought to the table. The emir emphasized the Gulf country's commitment to providing humanitarian aid for those affected by the situation in Rakhine state in Myanmar.

"We discussed how the Rohingya issue needs a solution [...] and we call for the government of Myanmar to resolve it on good terms," he said.

Even so, Retno revealed there had not been any concrete discussions about how Qatar would provide aid to Rakhine. However, Jokowi had opened up to his Qatari counterpart about Indonesia's own role in providing humanitarian aid and in facilitating communications between Myanmar and Bangladesh.

The emir's visit to Indonesia was part of a longer Asia trip. The Qatari head of state also visited Singapore and fellow Muslim-majority country Malaysia. News of his visit had previously raised questions about whether the Gulf nation might use investments to attempt to lure Indonesia to its side of the rivalry with the Saudis.

Jokowi had expressed "a little" disappointment following the visit of Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud earlier this year, after learning the Arab kingdom

had invested US\$65 billion in China, almost 10 times the amount pledged to Indonesia, despite the President's "special treatment" of the king. The Qatari emir, on the other hand, made no such pledges despite showing an interest in Indonesian infrastructure projects, none of which had been detailed during Wednesday's visit.

Both Retno and Coordinating Economic Affairs Minister Darmin Nasution insisted that a joint bilateral commission would review all potential projects with Qatar. The two countries did, however, ink five memoranda of understanding, including ones involving the health, civil aviation and education sectors.

Official data show two-way trade between Indonesia and Qatar was worth \$900 million in 2016. Indonesia mainly imports oil from Qatar, while Southeast Asia's biggest economy exports automotive products, textiles, footwear and furniture to the Persian Gulf nation.

NEW COMMITMENT

RI, Qatar want to jack up investment, trade

**Fedina S. Sundaryani
and Stefani Ribka**

THE JAKARTA POST/BOGOR/JAKARTA

Indonesia and Qatar have renewed their commitment to increasing ties in the infrastructure, tourism and trade sectors following a state visit by Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, to the Bogor Palace in West Java on Wednesday.

During the joint press statement, President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo said the two countries had discussed potential cooperation and committed to follow up on possible projects they could work on together.

"An extremely large business delegation is here for this visit, and we have discussed working together in the infrastructure and tourism sectors," he said during the press conference. "We have also agreed to immediately follow up on the issues discussed during the bilateral meeting."

The emir echoed Jokowi's affirmations to strengthen cooperation, highlighting that Wednesday's meeting marked the emir's first state visit to Indonesia, which he defined as a "good country" for Qatar.

"We have discussed different ways to increase our cooperation, especially in infrastructure and tourism," Al Thani said.

In one day, the two countries signed five memorandums of understanding (MoU) on a commitment to establish a joint commission, among other things.

Coordinating Economic Minister Darmin Nasution said the

joint commission would soon start discussions on the possible projects that Qatar could be involved in, a process that was expected to finish in one month.

"We have also agreed to start discussing a bilateral investment treaty with Qatar. Although these things tend to get stuck in the process, we are optimistic since we can use a similar framework to the one we recently used with the UAE [United Arab Emirates]" he told reporters following the meeting.

The two countries will also head toward signing a shareholders agreements for a power plant project worth US\$1.3 billion, and a floating storage regasification unit (FSRU), following the signing of a heads of agreement (HoA) during Jokowi's state visit to the Gulf country two years ago.

Separately, the Trade Ministry and the Qatari Ministry of Economy and Commerce as well as the Qatari Chamber and the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Kadin) held a Qatar-Indonesia Economic Forum, displaying a possible investment and trade partnership in several projects.

Among the prominent Qatari firms participating in the forum are global construction firm Qatari Diar, which manages 40 projects in 21 countries, hotel developer Katara Hospitality, food and agriculture firm Hassad Food — known for its notable investment in Australia — and Qatar Development Bank (QDB), all of which have stated interest in tapping into opportunities in Indonesia.

Katara Hospitality CEO Hamad Al Mulla said the firm oper-

ated about 40 hotels, mostly in Europe, and was now focusing on developing more hotels in Asia and in the United States.

Qatar, which is facing an embargo from the Saudi-UAE axis, is among the countries with the least investment in Indonesia. Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM) data shows that it only invested in one project last year with an investment value of less than \$1 million.

In the last 10 years, considerable investment has only been seen in some Indonesia-Qatar joint firms, including Indonesia's second largest telecommunications firm, Indosat Ooredoo and publicly listed PT Bank QNB Indonesia.

Qatar also asked for local firms to invest in its robust gas development and infrastructure, approaching the 2022 World Cup. The country is also expanding Hamad Port which is expected to be 14 times bigger than its current international Doha Port to ease logistics and trade flow from all over the world.

Trade Minister Enggartiasto Lukita said Indonesian exporters should utilize the newly operated Hamad Port to diversify and enlarge its little trade to the Gulf country. Indonesia's exports to Qatar stood at \$188 million last year, much lower than exports from other South East Asian countries like Malaysia and Vietnam, which shipped goods totaling \$353.7 million and \$290.1 million respectively, Trademap data shows.

D8 to boost trade with Istanbul meeting

Indra Budiari

THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

In a bid to expand and tighten economic cooperation among Islamic countries, Vice President Jusuf Kalla and Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi are traveling to Istanbul, Turkey, on Thursday to take part in a forum of the Developing-8 (D8) group of countries.

Established in 1996, the D8 Organization for Economic Cooperation consist of eight countries with large Muslim populations: Indonesia, Bangladesh, Egypt, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey. It is an economic alliance aimed at improving member states within the global economy.

Foreign Minister spokesperson Arrmanatha Nasir said

Eight developing Islamic-majority nations meeting in Turkey to deal with common economic issues

Indonesia wants to push for cooperation in maritime sector and in private sector

Wednesday that the expected outcome from the D8's Istanbul meeting was an "Istanbul Declaration" concerning the political commitment of the members to revitalize D8 cooperation. The eight countries would discuss increasing trade, visa exemptions and private sector cooperation.

Another expected result, he said, was an "Istanbul Plan of Ac-

tion" for enhancing cooperation in six areas that have been identified as the focus of the D8 for the next five years. The six areas are trade, industry, agriculture, energy, transportation and tourism.

Arrmanatha added that in the ninth summit of the D8, which will mark the 20th anniversary of the organization, Indonesia will continue to pursue maritime cooperation.

"Indonesia will also push for cooperation in the maritime context and connectivity within the private sector," he told reporters.

Several national leaders have confirmed their participation in the summit, including Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Pakistani Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and Nigerian

President Muhammadu Buhari. The theme of this year's summit is "Expanding Opportunities through Cooperation."

Established just two years before the 1998 financial crisis that hit Asian countries hard, the members of D8 are now emerging as a promising trade and economic bloc with latest data from the organization indicating that the combined gross domestic product (GDP) of the eight countries was more than US\$3.7 trillion.

The same data also showed that from 1997 to 2016 the average per capita GDP of the D8 has increased from \$2,207 to \$4,645, while the worth of the total exports of the eight countries has more than tripled from \$210 billion in 1997 to \$693 billion in

2015.

For the last 20 years, the D8 has held eight summits, 37 commission meetings and 16 council meetings. This year summit will be preceded by meetings of the Council of Foreign Ministers and others on Thursday. "The ministerial meeting that will be attended by the foreign minister is aimed at preparing for the Friday meeting," Arrmanatha said.

Kalla said on Tuesday that besides boosting the economy, the D8 meeting was also important for making sure that Islamic countries remained united and maintained peace in their respective areas. He added that another key point to be raised in Istanbul was technology development.

"Turkey, Iran and Egypt: They

have the potential in technology. For example, purchasing goods of similar quality from Turkey is cheaper than from European countries, just like purchasing aircraft from Indonesia is cheaper than from the US," Kalla said as quoted by antaranews.com.

Kalla did not name a specific target for investment, explaining that the main focus of the meeting was on increasing trade.

Separately, Turkey's ambassador to Indonesia, Sander Gurbuz, said the meeting would also provide an opportunity to intensify bilateral relations between his country and Indonesia, adding that Turkish companies were interested in investing in the energy, construction and defense sectors in Indonesia.

BPH Migas upbeat on one-price fuel policy

Rachmadea Aisyah

THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

The Downstream Oil and Gas Regulatory Agency (BPH Migas) believes that the government will be able to reach its target of providing the fuel stations needed in Indonesia's remotest areas this year as part of its one-price fuel policy, even though a considerable number of them are yet to be built.

The agency said construction of the project stations had been secured by their respective investors, all of whom were Indonesia-based.

However, the agency acknowledged it was facing a number of issues in establishing the stations, including disagreements between central and local governments on the locations and lack of interest from investors about investing in necessary infrastructure.

"It is not that we have not talked to them [local authorities] at all, but rather because their investment calculations exceed what is economically possible for us," BPH Migas committee member Henry Ahmad said at the agency's headquarters on Wednesday.

As many as 26 out of the targeted 54 fuel stations are fully operational, while six are slated to be inaugurated between October and November, the agency's data show.

The six stations are located in Berau regency in North Kalimantan, Klungkung regency in Bali, Pegunungan Bintang regency in Papua, Tambrauw in West Papua,

Agency convinced it will meet year-end target of building fuel stations across RI

Investors need incentives as stimulus to build fuel stations

Talau Islands regency in North Sulawesi, and in Riau Islands.

Meanwhile, the construction of eight stations is over 75 percent complete and they are expected to be ready this December.

However, the remaining 14 are only about 10 percent to 20 percent complete, the agency's data show.

Despite such problems, the agency is committed to improving its coordination and strategy next year, when it plans to build at least 50 more stations.

Henry said the agency had suggested local authorities opt for more modest fuel stations at locations far from existing ones, hence increasing competitiveness and the possibility of being built immediately.

The agency also plans to set a series of rules to standardize fuel-station construction as part of cost control.

"I said the other day when visiting Sumbawa Island that if we can lower the cost to Rp 75 million [US\$5,548], why don't we make them that way? Just like a retail fuel seller but with the same standards," Henry said.

In addition to that, he argued investors needed incentives to

build fuel stations in remote areas, and that state-owned energy firm Pertamina was willing to provide such stimuli.

In his calculation, investors would only gain Rp 45,000 based on regular profit estimates if they sold 300 liters of fuel a day, while they had to spend at least Rp 200 million to build a fuel station, showing that such an investment was high-cost.

At the same time, in Papua, Pertamina had given fuel station investors higher profit margins of around Rp 600 to Rp 700 per liter of fuel, compared to the regular margin of about Rp 150, he said.

Despite Pertamina giving higher profit margins to investors, fuel prices would remain the same, as the company would absorb the loss caused by such mechanisms, he added.

The agency has proposed giving Pertamina Rp 1 trillion annually from its annual non-tax revenue (PNBP) to ease the company's financial burden in its quest to fully implement the one-price policy.

The proposed fund may help Pertamina expand the coverage of the policy, which aims to cut the price disparity of fuel between regions across the sprawling archipelago of more than 17,000 islands.

However, the agency still had yet to realize the plan as it would need to discuss it further with related stakeholders, including the Finance Ministry and Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry, Henry said.

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JUDICIARY

Adultery second-most common ethics breach

Marguerite Afra Sapiie
THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

Bribery cases implicating judges have repeatedly put the country's judiciary in the spotlight, raising concern about impartiality for years. What is less known, however, is that adultery is the second-most common type of ethics violation tainting the courts of law.

An analysis of cases handled by a joint ethics panel of the Judicial Commission (KY) and the Supreme Court (MA) reveals that penalties have been handed down to a total of 48 judges since 2009, which includes 16 cases of adultery and 23 gratuity cases. Another five cases involve disciplinary problems, three others drug abuse and one concerns document forgery.

Many of the extramarital affairs involved judges working at courts far from their families, the commission has found.

Abdul Rahman, a 33-year-old judge at a religious court in Labuha in North Maluku, is the latest judge to be dismissed, after the ethics panel on Tuesday found that he had breached the code of ethics by having an extramarital affair.

Abdul was called before the ethics hearing after his then wife, identified only as R, had filed a report against her husband with the commission in February, because of her suspicions that Ab-

Recent ethics violations by judges related to adultery

- **Feb. 25, 2014:** Judge M. Reza Latuconsina from Ternate District Court, North Maluku, is banned from trying cases for two years and exempted from his monthly allowances for six months. He was found guilty of having an extramarital affair with a clerk at the court.
- **March 4, 2014:** Judge Elsadela from Tebo District Court, Jambi, is found guilty of having an extramarital affair with Mastuhi, a judge at the Tebo Religious Court. He was dismissed.
- **March 5, 2014:** Judge Puji Rahayu from Surabaya State Administrative Court (PTUN), East Java, is dismissed after ethics panel finds her guilty of having an affair with then PTUN Banjarmasin deputy chairman Jumanto. The latter was also dismissed.
- **May 20, 2015:** A judge identified as TH from Mataram District Court, East Nusa Tenggara (NTB), is dismissed by ethics panel which finds the judge guilty of committing adultery at his house and at hotels.
- **Dec. 13, 2016:** Elvia Darwati, then Padang Panjang Religious Court chair in West Sumatra, is dismissed after she is caught in a hotel room with her boyfriend during a raid by Public Order Agency (Satpol PP) officers on Oct. 9, 2016.
- **Oct. 17, 2017:** Judge Abdul Rahman from Labuha Religious Court, North Maluku, is dismissed for having an extramarital affair.

Source: Various sources

dul was having an affair with SD, a widow living near his house in Labuha, following Abdul's transfer to Labuha.

"The aggravating factor is that the action has lowered the dignity of both the judge profession and the judiciary, because the case has gained the attention of the locals and officials in North Maluku," KY commissioner Jaja Ahmad Jayus, who is also a member of the ethics panel, said in the verdict.

The panel said a witness had revealed that the former couple's marriage had been drifting apart since 2015, when Abdul was transferred to Labuha while R, who is also a judge, was living in Wamena, Papua. Abdul was able to have R moved to Labuha in late 2016, but by that point their marriage had deteriorated due to a lack of communication.

Abdul eventually married SD

in June, after the divorce he had filed with R was finalized in May, according to his defense statement. At the time of the wedding, the KY was still investigating the case.

In his defense, Abdul said the breaking of his marriage with R was not related to SD's divorce, which had been brought to court in 2016.

Many of the cases of adultery handled by the KY involve judges who were stationed at courts far from their homes and did not have their families with them, Jaja said after the hearing.

Ethics breaches of extramarital affairs have also been found to occur between judges. In a case in 2014, for instance, two judges at a lower court in Jambi, Elsadela and Mastuhi, were dismissed after they, each married to someone else, were found to be engaged in an office romance.

The affair reportedly began with Elsadela seeking advice from Mastuhi on a possible divorce, he himself being a religious court judge hearing divorce cases.

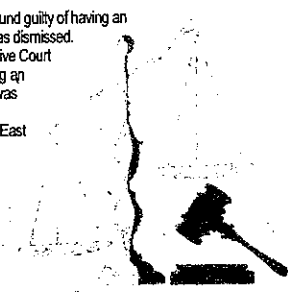
In another case that same year, the ethics panel banned judge M. Reza Latuconsina of the Ternate District Court from hearing cases for two years after he was found to have had an extramarital relation with a clerk working at the same court.

In 2013, the joint panel handed down penalties to seven judges, four of whom had been involved in adultery.

The problems prompted Supreme Court justice Hatta Ali to issue a decree in February stipulating that, among other things, the home of a judge's family should be taken into account in the rotation of judges, in a move that suggests that extramarital affairs continue to pose a challenge for judges.

"The [new] Supreme Court judge rotation procedures already stipulate that families of judges should be taken into account, but there are still judges who live apart from their families," Jaja said.

Supreme Court spokesperson Abdullah was more optimistic about the new rotation procedures, saying that there would "hopefully be no more such [extramarital affair] cases in the future."



SAFETY

Survey finds Jakarta among world's worst for women

Fachrul Sidiq

THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

The family of Dewi, a pseudonym, decided to drop a legal case at the beginning of 2017 against a man who raped her in Jakarta. She was ultimately forced to marry the perpetrator, because her family thought it would be best for her and the child in her womb.

Such a case, according to the Jakarta Legal Aid Institute (LBH Jakarta), which assisted Dewi's attempt to pursue justice, reflects the weak protection for women, as many who fall victim to sexual abuse, end up failing to get justice.

"The simplest example is where the victim has to pay for their own forensic medical examination in a hospital. They also don't get proper psychological rehabilitation [following sexual abuse]," Pratiwi Febry of LBH Jakarta said on Wednesday. A forensic medical examination is necessary evidence when a victim of sexual abuse files a police report.

Jakarta has been ranked the world's ninth-worst megacity for women, in a poll conducted by the Thomson Reuters Foundation, which measured the prevalence of sexual violence, harmful cultural practices, access to health care and economic opportunities, and which was released this week.

The four worst cities are Cairo in Egypt, Karachi in Pakistan, Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Delhi in India.

Twenty experts from each city, ranging from academics and NGO activists to policy makers, were interviewed on women's issues. They were questioned about the

situation in their respective areas and asked to give scores, before drawing conclusions based on their testimonies.

Of the four aforementioned categories, Jakarta's worst ranking was in cultural practices, in which Jakarta ranked fourth-worst, meaning that women are not well protected from potentially harmful cultural practices including genital mutilation, child or forced marriage and female infanticide.

In 2015, 1,067 children across the capital exchanged marriage vows that were officially registered, data from the city administration issued this year show, most of whom were girls.

While female infanticide is largely unheard of in Jakarta, the practice of female genital mutilation is widespread in the city of approximately 10 million. A finding from Karyanamitra, an NGO promoting women's rights, showed that the practice was common in several parts of Jakarta.

While scoring relatively good marks on access to health care and economic opportunities, the capital ranked seventh-worst in the sexual violence category, meaning that women in the city face a high risk of being raped or sexually assaulted.

According to data from the National Commission on Violence Against Women (Komnas Perempuan), 2,552 of 13,602 cases of violence against women that occurred throughout 2016 happened in Jakarta, the highest among all provinces in the archipelago.